

SeniorNet Inc—that helped older citizens learn how to use computers and navigate the internet; fostered the development of the first information and assistance programs in Lucas County for grandparents and other kin who are raising children; she established the first Elder Friendly Program for Toledo—affiliated with the national Elder Friendly Program—with the assistance of the former Toledo Mayor Jack Ford, to help improve services and accessibility for older citizens shopping in retail stores and local businesses; she fostered the creation of a Senior Safety program for older citizens; and she spearheaded the organization of the first campaign to get a Senior Citizens Tax Levy on the ballot in Lucas County to help increase meals for homebound elders, expand home care for the sick and frail elderly, provide more services of Alzheimer's patients and their caregivers, and expand services for senior centers.

Billie Johnson is widely regarded by her colleagues in the aging network. Her leadership fosters a spirit of cooperation, allegiance and loyalty which is rare. Evidence of her skill is the development of a master plan, in cooperation with many partners, for the re-use of the 42 acres of county-owned land surrounding the Area Office on Aging into a comprehensive, continuing care complex for older adults. As the Area Office on Aging's first and only Executive Director for three decades, Mrs. Johnson has helped in the creation and development of many senior centers, nutrition sites for seniors, transportation programs, health services, adult day care programs, home care, and numerous other services for older adults. She has been an advisor, consultant and speaker for numerous local, state, national and international organizations and agencies serving older persons including: Iowa Commission on Aging, Ohio Department of Aging, National Church Residences, National Council on Aging/NISH, National Caucus and Center on Black Aged, Gerontology Program for the University of Toledo, and numerous Area Agencies on Aging located in Michigan, Ohio, Kansas and Iowa. She was even selected to participate in the United Nations World Conference on Women Forum in 1985 in Nairobi, Kenya. The International Federation on Aging later published excerpts of her white paper in a book entitled: "Global Aging."

More important than any professional achievement, Billie Johnson has carried forward the lessons learned at her grandmother's knee as she inspires and teaches her own daughter and granddaughters. She guides them in proud tradition and shows them by example how to be strong women in their own right.

I have counted on Billie Johnson's wise counsel throughout the years, as have many others in our region. She is a compassionate, caring, and dynamic woman, and a fine example to all as a Member of the Ohio Women's Hall of Fame. I know I join with many across our state when I offer my warmest and heartfelt Congratulations!

IN HONOR OF DAVE PAVLICK

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 22, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Dave Pavlick

for his dedication to social justice on the occasion of the completion of his second 600 mile walk throughout southeastern Ohio to promote the Health Care for All Ohioans Act.

In coordination with the Single Payer Action Network (SPAN), Dave is ending his twenty-three day walk for Healthcare Justice in Parma, Ohio. The purpose of the walk is to promote the Health Care for All Ohioans Act and to raise awareness of the plight of millions of Americans who are underinsured or without healthcare. Dave's walk across southeastern Ohio has garnered attention and support from people all over the State of Ohio and has raised our collective consciousness of one of the biggest issues facing Americans today. I, along with SPAN and the United Auto Workers Local 1005 join in welcoming Dave back to Parma at tonight's "Welcome Home Dave" celebration.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor of Dave Pavlick, and in recognition of his outstanding commitment to social justice and promoting healthcare for all Ohioans.

UNLESS U HAVE WALKED IN OUR SHOES

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 22, 2008

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I submit the following:

UNLESS U HAVE WALKED IN OUR SHOES

(By Brock DeAngelo)

My name is Brock, I am 13 years old. I will make a difference in a world that refuses to hear our voices. We deserve a voice. And that voice should be our own. We live in a nation that offers "Freedom of Speech." Not only should we be heard but we should be offered respect. Please join me in a mission that is all about U. Contact me at unllessuwalked@aol.com.

My name is Brock, Brock DeAngelo. For years I would have loved any last name but mine. Then one day I realized, it's not the name that makes a person; it's the person that makes the name.

I then decided I will change the vicious cycle behind my last name. The mental and physical abuse, the evilness and malicious lies stop with me.

I will show my brother and one day my children; that a man with great pride and integrity stands in front of the "DeAngelo" name. And it began with me, Brock!

The courts cursed me with a Guardian ad Litem. I can honestly say she never listened to a word I said. She was too busy trying to twist my situation around to suit her views. It was a little hard for her to accomplish since everytime we met the stories on my behalf were always the same. Funny thing about "the truth", it's consistent.

She was the first of many disappointments. Children's Services made me a promise that they never followed through with (no thanks to my ad Litem).

In the end, the person that does not deserve a title to fatherhood, saved his own reputation. He agreed to leave me alone. Unfortunately not every one is as lucky.

I am asking U to join me on my quest, to become a voice and to make what U have to say important.

I have discussed this matter with my attorney, met with a Special Assistant to Tim

Ryan and discussed this matter with Sandra Harwood, State Representative, 65th House District.

My goal is for Congress to not only hear us but to act upon our intelligence. In order for U to be recognized, we must fight together. U are old enough to know right from wrong. The courts need to listen. U are the future.

CHILDREN'S BILL OF RIGHTS

DECLARATION I

Congress shall allow no law that endangers a child's physical, emotional or physiological well-being.

DECLARATION II

Congress shall encourage all states to provide standardized legal representation of children and their specific issues in legal domestic disputes, regardless of state jurisdiction or residence.

DECLARATION III

A child shall be guaranteed an equal voice in determining court-ordered visitations with parents or guardians as well as the continuation of those visits.

DECLARATION IV

No child shall be forced to endure ongoing physical, emotional, or verbal harm by a parent, guardian or other individual.

DECLARATION V

No child shall be forced to return to the care of a parent or legal guardian who has been convicted of certain civil crimes or any felony, unless they themselves desire it.

DECLARATION VI

Accusations by a child concerning ongoing parental misconduct shall be investigated within twenty-four hours and taken seriously until otherwise proven false.

DECLARATION VII

The child physical, emotional and physiological well-being shall be of the utmost concern when determining their possible court testimony against a parent, guardian or other adult.

DECLARATION VIII

A child shall have a voice in determining the need for restraining orders against a parent, guardian or other adult.

DECLARATION IX

Reports from doctors, physiologists, social workers and other professionals and paraprofessionals shall be given the highest priority when determining parental rights, visitations, and other issues concerning the emotional and physiological well-being of the child.

DECLARATION X

The rights of all other citizens shall be applied with equal conviction to all children.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF RANDALL C. FERGUSON, JR.

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 22, 2008

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I proudly rise today in recognition of the achievements of Mr. Randall C. Ferguson, Jr., an important resident of the Fifth District of Missouri, which I am honored to represent. This week, Mr. Ferguson is to be inducted into the Missouri Walk of Fame during a reception as part of the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation's Annual Legislative Conference, an event held to honor the achievements of African-Americans who have made significant contributions